

# *Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

## Gathering & Annual Sessions

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Fourth Month 2026

DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center

8411 25<sup>th</sup> Street East

Parrish, Florida, 34219

## AGENDAS

## DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

**Dear Friends,**

***Welcome to our 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!***

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first-time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

This SEYM Annual Gathering will be held in person at the DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Parrish, Florida. This Gathering will use a typical in-person schedule with many events held each day and with multiple workshops occurring at the same time. Our plan is to conduct Meetings for Worship with attention to Business in a hybrid manner to allow remote participation and to make some other portions of the program available via video conference. The amount of the program that will be available to remote participants will be limited due to the compressed schedule and the limited availability of technology and volunteers to manage it.

We look forward to this in-person Gathering and feel it will provide opportunities to greet Friends from throughout our Yearly Meeting as well as Friends Organizations around the country and for the deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together. The good news as of this writing is that registration for this Gathering suggests that people are very interested in being together again!

We are especially pleased to bring you Leslie Manning who will lead us finding the ground of our hope, exploring the synergistic and unitive relationship of our faith, spirituality and witness. She will also bring us the 2026 Walton Lecture on the Yearly Meeting theme “Hold Fast the Hope that Anchors the Soul”.

The order of business for these sessions will follow the form of our previous In-person Gatherings. My continued intent is to move the usual housekeeping matters along more efficiently to leave more time to share and explore how spirit moves among us in our Meetings and organizations.

Please attend to these and other documents in advance that are likely to be transmitted electronically prior to the gathering. Your attention to these documents will assist the clerk and the community to avoid long presentations on otherwise routine matters.

The success of our Gathering will always depend on your participation.

Plenary 1 will again be an open meeting / worship group forum to share where we are finding strength and renewal in these challenging times? How are we maintaining our witness as a united community? Where do our leadings take us in this time of created division and exclusion?

Again, welcome to our 61<sup>st</sup> Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

*In Friendship,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Carlie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Carlie, clerk, SEYM

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
27<sup>th</sup> Third Month 2026, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
Online only

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82686420010?pwd=cFewyn72aG1gqZRLzBdGmWjloapuj0.1>

Meeting ID: 826 8642 0010

Passcode: 205207

One tap mobile:

+13052241968,,82686420010#,,,,\*205207# US

+13017158592,,82686420010#,,,,\*205207# US (Washington DC)

## Agenda

*General reports from committees should be brief at EC and bring forward issues needing an EC minute (as needed). There is no need to go into details that are within the Documents in Advance and will be provided to the body at plenary during YBM sessions, New issues not in the DIAs needing discernment should be brought forward at EC to the extent these matters are prepared. Routine information can be presented to the body at the appropriate YBM plenary.*

Opening Worship / Reading of inspirational quote

Nominating Committee Report

YM Administrative Secretary's Report ..... 12

Jerry Knutson Traveling Ministry Report..... 13

Treasurer's Report

Finance Committee Report

Trustees Report

Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report

Membership Recorder

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Worship & Ministry Committee..... 14

CAPP Program

Earthcare Committee

Gathering Committee Report

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report..... 15

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report ..... 17

Representative to FLGBTQC Report ..... 26

Archives Committee

Representatives to Organizations (if required for a proposed EC action minute)

Review of minutes

Closing Worship

# Plenary Sessions and the Walton Lecture

1 – 5 Fourth Month 2026

In-person and via zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87511999860?pwd=rXrXZJumFPfcjyxlBZOD5NUAVdjb1E.1>

Meeting ID: 875 1199 9860

Passcode: 800797

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,87511999860#,,,,\*800797# US

+13017158592,,87511999860#,,,,\*800797# US (Washington DC)

## First Plenary Session – 1<sup>st</sup> Fourth Month 2026, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM ET

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend's writing

Welcome

Open Forum Meetings and Worship Groups, Where we are finding strength and renewal in these challenging times? How are we maintaining our witness as a united community?

Closing Worship

## Second Plenary Session – 2<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Month 2026, 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM ET

Agenda

Centering Worship / Reading of inspirational quote

Announcements

Calling of Epistle Committee

Treasurer's Report

Finance Committee, first reading of the SEYM budget

Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups

Acceptance of EC and IBM Minutes, (*please refer to documents in advance as the clerk intends to call for acceptance of these Minutes as published*) ..... 6 - 11

Nominating Committee, First Reading of Nominations Report

Trustees Report

Review of the Minutes

Closing Worship

## Third Plenary Session – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fourth Month 2026, 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM ET

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced

Announcements

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report..... 15

Youth Committee Report

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

Worship and Ministry Committee Report..... 14  
 Committee for Ministry on Racism Report  
 Education Committee Report  
 Review of Minutes  
 Closing Worship

### Fourth Plenary Session – 4<sup>th</sup> Fourth Month 2026, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM ET

Opening Worship  
 A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing.  
 Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.  
 Announcements

Representatives to Organizations & Visitors from Organizations:

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Friends General Conference (FGC)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT)
- Florida Council of Churches
- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)..... 26
- Palmetto Friends Gathering
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
- Quaker House
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Observers to Organizations:

- Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board Observers

Review of minutes  
 Closing worship

### Fifth Plenary Session – 4<sup>th</sup> Fourth Month 2026, 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM ET

Open, centering worship.  
 A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing.  
 Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.  
 Announcements

Field Secretary for Earthcare Report ..... 17  
 Publications Committee Report  
 Archives Committee Report  
 Earthcare Committee Report  
 Review of Minutes  
 Closing Worship

### Sixth Plenary Session – 5<sup>th</sup> Fourth Month 2026, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM ET

Open, centering worship.  
 A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing.  
 Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced

Announcements.  
Nominating Committee Report, final reading  
Finance Committee Report (budget) final reading  
Gathering Committee Report  
Reading of the Epistle  
Review of Minutes  
Closing Worship

Meeting for Worship – 5<sup>th</sup> Fourth Month 2025, 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM ET

*Southeastern Yearly Meeting*  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

Winter Interim Business Meeting  
24 First Month 2026

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 26WIBM01** Winter Interim Business meeting of SEYM endorses Peace and Social Concerns Committee's intention to prepare and submit an SEYM amicus brief in support of the Miccosukee's court intervention, and to prepare a broader statement on the immigrant detention centers.  
**APPROVED**
- 26WIBM02** Winter Interim Business meeting of SEYM agrees to allow SEYM to receive and manage any donations toward the preparation and filing of this amicus brief as needed.  
**APPROVED**
- 26WIBM03** Winter Interim Business Meeting of SEYM approves the request of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to make a contribution of \$1500 from the contingency fund in support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for the operation of their Community Cooperative Grocery Store.  
**APPROVED**
- 26WIBM04** Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting expresses its sincere gratitude to Quakers of Orlando for their abundant hospitality. The bountiful food, taking into consideration our variety of dietary needs, is greatly appreciated. The space and technology have made it possible for Friends to connect, participate, and be heard. Smiles abound as we arrive from across the state. We look forward to the Michener lecture tomorrow!  
**APPROVED**

*Southeastern Yearly Meeting*  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

Winter Executive Committee Meeting  
23 First Month 2026

NUMBERED MINUTES

**26WEC01** Executive Committee of SEYM recommends that Interim Business Meeting accept Peace and Social Concerns Committee’s intention to prepare and submit an SEYM amicus brief in support of the Miccosukee’s court intervention, and to prepare a broader statement on the immigrant detention centers.

**APPROVED**

**26WEC02** Executive Committee recommends that Interim Business Meeting agree to allow SEYM to receive and manage any donations toward the preparation and filing of this amicus brief as needed.

**APPROVED**

# *Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

## *of the Religious Society of Friends*

### Fall Interim Business Meeting

4 Tenth Month 2025

#### NUMBERED MINUTES

- 25FIBM01** Fall Interim Business Meeting approves the expenditure of up to \$800 to acquire a hearing assistance system to be used at SEYM events.
- 25FIBM02** Fall Interim Business Meeting approves a donation of \$500 to be made to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the funds to be drawn from SEYM’s contingency fund.
- 25FIBM03** Southeastern Yearly Meeting Quakers deplore the establishment of the Everglades Migrant Prison in the fragile environment of the Everglades. Reliable reports of conditions within the prison, the lack of adequate nutrition and sanitary facilities give us grave concern for the mental and physical health of the detainees. We stand in solidarity with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in Florida in calling for the immediate closure of the camp to preserve the air quality, drinking water supply, and the sacred ecological balance vital to the Miccosukee way of life.
- We applaud the recent landmark agreement between the state of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army to accelerate the restoration of the Everglades. We feel the establishment of the Everglades Migrant Prison is completely counterproductive to the restoration project’s goals and betrays the promise made to Florida residents and the one million people who visit Everglades National Park each year, generating more than \$120 million dollars of revenue to our state.
- There is only one Everglades in all the world. We Floridians are the trustees of this unique, beautiful, and spiritually important wetland. It is incumbent upon our governor and our legislature to reflect that trust, not betray it.
- 25FIBM04** Friends approve the Nominating Committee report, as revised.
- 25FIBM05** SEYM requires all persons who are hired to work with SEYM youth to be either CAPP registered or have other acceptable Quaker accreditation to work with youth, as approved by the Child Protection Committee, before we agree to hire them.

**25FIBM06** SEYM thanks Sarasota Friends for their great food and gracious hospitality!

*Southeastern Yearly Meeting*  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

Fall Executive Committee Meeting  
3 Tenth Month 2025

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 25FEC01** Friends approve of Vicki Carlie serving as recording clerk for this Executive Committee Meeting and tomorrow's Fall Interim Business Meeting, in Liz Dykes absence.
- 25FEC02** Executive Committee recommends that Fall Interim Business Meeting that the minute from Deland Quaker Meeting Regarding the Everglades Migrant Prison be adopted by SEYM.

*Southeastern Yearly Meeting*  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

Summer Executive Committee Meeting  
21 Sixth Month 2025

NUMBERED MINUTES

- 25SEC01** SEYM Executive Committee approves the policy, as submitted, to address the potential attendance at Southeastern Yearly Meeting events of individuals who are registered sex offenders and who are under the care of a Monthly Meeting consistent with an approved plan of care.
- 25SEC02** SEYM Executive Committee recommends that the yearly meeting approve the expenditure of up to \$800 to acquire a hearing assistance system to be used at SEYM events.
- 25SEC03** SEYM Executive Committee recommends that the yearly meeting approve a donation of \$500 to be made to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the funds to be drawn from SEYM's contingency fund.
- 25SEC04** SEYM Executive Committee expresses its appreciation to Tampa Monthly Meeting for their gracious hospitality hosting this meeting.

# Administrative Secretary's Report

## SEYM Annual Meeting for Business

### 1 – 5 Fourth Month 2026

Friends,

As you may know, this year we lost our beloved Membership Recorder, Ed Lesnick. His passing has left a huge gap in SEYM's administration.

Ed compiled the Membership rolls for all meetings and worship groups, the information SEYM uses for the annual Directory. Another aspect of Ed's role as Membership Recorder is accounting for members and attenders and producing the membership statistics, the basis of SEYM's apportionment allocations.

I have been in contact with Ed's daughter, Joy. She has Ed's laptop and has sent many files we need for SEYM. She also sent information the FileMaker program Ed used. It appears that the license was for use by two people and SEYM may be able to access the information Ed had stored in the program. I will look into it in more detail after Gathering when I have more time, to determine whether SEYM will need to purchase a new license.

Like everything else, it is getting more expensive to print the directory. I would like to change the format of the Directory a bit, rearranging the sections and publishing the detailed minutes from the yearly meeting and omitting the committee reports which can be found online at [SEYMquakers.org](http://SEYMquakers.org). The numbered minutes from the previous year's meetings for business would still be published along with the meeting statistics and approved budget. I would also like to move the meeting and worship group information from a separate section to the beginning of the meeting's or worship group's corresponding member/attender list

Susan Wade, Administrative Secretary  
23 Third Month 2026

# Jerry Knutson Traveling Ministry Report

## SEYM Annual Meeting for Business

### 1 – 5 Fourth Month 2026

2024-2026 Traveling Ministry Report by Jerry Knutson

- 3/16/24 facilitated for Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Home Group
- 3/29/24 facilitated at SEYM Annual Sessions workshop on Discernment
- 4/18/24 facilitated with OMM on "The Gathered Meeting" by Thomas Kelly
- 6/16/24 facilitated at Charlotte MM on "Maximizing Pleasure and Minimizing Anguish" and "Spiritual Practices" workshops.
- 10/20/24 facilitated at WV Fall Gathering on "Maximizing Pleasure and Minimizing Anguish"
- 11/30/24 facilitated at SEYM HYM "What spiritual practices keep you joyful and centered in these trying times?"
- 9/28/25 gave a sermon on Sweet Revenge and Hope at West Richmond, IN Friends Meeting. (FUM)

Facilitated Julian of Norwich workshops on:

- 4/18/25 for SEYM Annual Sessions
- 7/1/25 for BYM Annual Sessions
- 9/21/25 for Clear Creek MM, Richmond IN
- 10/11/25 for WV Fall Gathering, Middleway WV
- 10/26/25 for Charlotte MM
- 11/28/25 for SEYM HYM

Planned for SEYM Annual Sessions 2026 "Gathered meeting (last call)"

I'm being led to lay down my traveling ministry after SEYM Annual Gathering. Since April 2015, this ministry has been under the care of Orlando Monthly Meeting and I'm grateful for the spiritual and financial support that made this possible. I'm also grateful to my Anchor Committee and all the F/friends that helped in this Ministry.

Love, Light and Gratitude,  
Jerry Knutson

## Worship and Ministry Report

### SEYM Annual Meeting for Business

#### 1 – 5 Fourth Month 2026

The SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee continues to bring spiritual nurture and joyful hope to all Friends and beyond, especially during these uncertain times. It is our call to walk with any and all who are struggling to make sense of the difficulties faced by the most vulnerable among us by holding them in the Light, helping them to find answers along their journey, and providing tools of discernment and wisdom for those seeking solace.

As part of our work, we had a wonderful Michener Lecturer – Susan Taylor – who spoke to us on the topic: “*Tending the Soil of our Faith Community.*” The lecture and following workshop were well-attended by Friends face-to-face and online. We are aware of the difficulties faced by online attenders and are working on solutions for future hybrid presentations.

We have at least one new online presentation in the works for this spring/summer. Specifically, Beverly Ward will share with Friends on the topic of *Faith and Practice understood through Permaculture.*

Yearly Meeting Gathering, 1-5 Fourth Month, includes sessions sponsored by Worship & Ministry such as Jan Dahm and Lisa Erazmus’ workshop on *Reflections from the Heart and Spirit*, an opportunity for Extended Worship, our morning Worship Sharing sessions (quotes and queries discerned by Jan Dahm and Lisa Erazmus), a Meeting for Remembrance, and Joel Cook’s early morning Bible Study on “When All My Hopes were Gone”.

We attempt to be faithful to our labor of encouragement by holding individuals and Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups in our hearts and working toward the recognition of Friends’ work in the world as a sacred task needing deep spiritual nourishment. We ask that all continue to hold each other with a tender hand and listen deeply to where Spirit is leading us.

Jan Dahm, Lisa Erazmus, Richelle Ogle  
Co-clerks of SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee

## Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

SEYM Annual Meeting for Business

1 – 5 Fourth Month 2026

### Young Adults

During the past year, SEYM's young adults demonstrated a strong interest in social justice and in engagement with the wider Quaker world.

- **Orlando** – OMM has five young adults who attend regularly, and a few others who remain associated with our meeting although we don't see them often. This year they participated in Friends General Conference, School of the Spirit, Friends Committee for National Legislation, and Friends World Committee for Consultation. Local organizations they worked with included Socialist Alternative, Central Florida Mutual Aid, Come out With Pride, and Coalition for the Homeless. They also volunteered at an inter-faith Iftar dinner and marched in a Martin Luther King Day parade.
- **Gainesville** - Gainesville has several young adults who are involved in Democratic Socialists and other social justice causes, including those that support immigrants.
- **Miami** – Miami has a young adult as clerk, and long-term attender Aaron graduated from high school and now attends college.
- **Tallahassee** – Two young adults are associated with the Tallahassee meeting, one of which (Aurelio) is very active with Friends General Conference.
- **St. Augustine** – The two young adults from the St. Augustine meeting got married this year. Congratulations, Amanda and Seth!
- **Sarasota** – Asma left Orlando to study at New College and now attends the Sarasota meeting. She is on the board of FGC and helped plan their youth and young adult gathering last summer.

### Youth in Monthly Meetings

Children under 18 are still rare in our monthly meetings. The following meetings have had young people attend during the past year:

- **Orlando** - During the past year, 12 youth have attended at least occasionally. However, since January, only four are consistent at First Day School. One family moved away, one family stopped attending, and one youth left for college. The other children attend occasionally.
- **Gainesville** - Gainesville has had several wee friends attend throughout the year and has recently gained two teens.
- **Miami** - One family with children attends regularly.
- **Tampa** - One family has recently begun attending.

### Retention and Recruitment

While many young people do feel spiritually aligned with Quakerism, they are reluctant to attend meetings where they are not surrounded by their peers. This tendency makes it difficult to retain children--and especially teenagers--beyond the first few weeks of their trying out a meeting for the

first time. Thus, obtaining a critical mass large enough to retain and attract youth remains a challenge.

In the coming year, I hope to try out some programming to hopefully draw in youth from the Orlando community, and I would love to help other meetings with their outreach efforts. These efforts could possibly take the form of tables at events, summer or weekend youth programs, conscientious objector workshops, or participation in social justice projects. Please let me know how I can best support your meeting's efforts to work with youth and young adults.

*Rachel Dellinger, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator*  
*March 15, 2026*



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Yearly Meeting for Worship  
with a Concern for Business:  
Field Secretary for Earthcare  
2026 Report

beverly g ward



*Migration is Beautiful, Fabric Art, Florida People's Advocacy Center*

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## Overview

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*Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) region.*

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*In addition to detailing activities since the SEYM 2026 Winter Interim Business Meeting (FIBM), this report also provides an overview of activities for the fiscal year. Ongoing activities and plans for future meetings are included. Scheduled or planned work includes:*

- Continued community preparedness;*
- Continued support for the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida's intervention in the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention Facility;*
- Work with the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee and other SEYM committees;*
- Convening workshops and visiting Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups;*
- Producing and sharing videos and other online content; and*
- Working in the wider Quaker world and environmental groups.*

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## Communication with the FSE Anchoring Committee

*I had two in-person visits with some members of the the Anchoring Committee since the last report and continue to maintain communication via email and other remote means.*

*The planned visit with Andersens during the Florida Council of Churches Advocacy Days during First Month was postponed.*

*Over the course of the last fiscal year, these contacts have been beneficial in helping to discern actions in response to various concerns, such as the proliferation of immigration detention facilities; the federal and state actions to undo environmental regulations; the attacks on human and civil rights; and the impacts of these actions. I continue to be grateful to the Committee for their care and support.*



Wekiwa Springs State Park

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## Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

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*Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.*

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Mt. Dora, FL 2025.08.21

## SEYM Community Preparedness

As the 2026 Hurricane Season nears, I am preparing to work with the SEYM committees to revisit our community preparedness planning. There is heightened concern due to state and federal actions that reduced planning and other resources once available. Part of the planning will include assessment of what may or may not be available from the sources and what local strategies may be available to fill the gaps. More information will be made available about these planning activities directly to Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, through SEYM committees and eNews.

Resources within SEYM include, but are not limited to:

- Gainesville Friends Meeting will make the Meetinghouse available to SEYM Friends for short-term use in the event of a climate emergency. Shawna Doran is the contact person.
- Other Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and individuals have offered shelter in the past.
- Friends are encouraged to consider their household needs.
  - Do you have an emergency plan?
  - Will you shelter in place?
  - Can you shelter with someone else?
  - If you must evacuate, do you have a contact person in your Meeting or Worship Group?

## 2026 Love is Love Pride Fest 7 Second Month (February), Deland

John Heimburg and I joined Deland Quakers to table during Pride Fest. Deland Friends had several new pamphlets and other handouts to share, including “Quaker and Queer: a concise who’s who of queer Friends” and “You Might Be a Quaker if...”. “You Might Be a Quaker if...” is a fanzine by SEYM Youth and Young Adults.

## Stetson University, 9 Second Month (February)

I joined a number of Friends from Deland Monthly Meeting to participate in the University’s Center for Dialogue and Civic Action, “Ask Big Questions: ‘How Can We Have Peace?’.” In addition to breakfast for dinner, DeLand Friends gave an overview Friends’ history and Peace testimony. In small group discussions, we joined students in considering peace on multiple levels—personal, relational, and global.

## St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, 15 Second Month

Following the Yearly Meeting’s actions regarding the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport Detention facility during Winter Interim Business Meeting, members of St. Petersburg Meeting reached out to me to facilitate an Adult Firstday School discussion on the subject. One of the actions taken by the Yearly Meeting was approval of a “Statement of Accompaniment”, [click here to read](#). Friends are asked to share this statement as led, including letters to local newspapers. I will share my overview with St. Pete Meeting via the SEYM website, eNews, and with Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

## Planned Visits

Future planned visits include:

- AVP workshop(s) in St. Petersburg. This continues to be on hold as the facility is making renovations;
- Quakers of Orlando: A date has not been set for “Conversations to Explore”; however, I am preparing some comments for the Property Committee regarding a project planned by committee;
- Bystander/Upstander Training scheduled for 2026.03.21, Volusia Pride Advocacy Committee and Deland Monthly Meeting;
- Visit to Gainesville Monthly Meeting to visit the Yearly Meeting archives at the University of Florida;
- An online presentation of Power-Mapping Workshop following the 2026 SEYM Gathering;
- There have been a few changes in the workshop topics, so please take a look for ideas that may be of interest. Feel free to make suggestions.

## Past Visits

During the SEYM 2025 Fiscal Year, there were several visits to Meetings and Worship Groups, often not associated with standing workshops or events. I encourage Friends to consider asking me to attend local events, Adult Firstday School, potlucks, etc. I also try to rotate among Meetings for Meeting for Worship, especially remotely.

## Suggested Workshop/Event Topics (In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid)

- Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training - explores anti-racism/decolonization work with emphasis on local concerns and means of accompaniment
- Bystander/Upstander Training: introduces strategies for accompaniment, documenting harmful behavior, bigotry, obliviousness
- Climate Justice in Our Community: identifies specific local social justice and equity concerns;
- Decolonizing Earthcare: explores the intersectionality of gender, race, extraction, and harmful economic systems;



Stetson University, 2026.02.09

- Discerning Earthcare Leadings: listening and sharing experiences to reach individual and group decisions on Earthcare actions;
- Earthcare audits: baseline assessment of individual or community Earthcare activities and discernment;
- Equality or Equity? What is Our Testimony?: examines Friends’ equality testimony, the concepts of equity and justice, and the relationship of these to Earthcare; Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture: introduces permaculture design and domains and ways to align these practices with Friends’ testimonies;
- Power-Mapping: an interactive, strategic tool for identifying and analyzing where and how power is being held and how to develop change-making strategies. **NEW OFFERING;**
- Quakers and Climate Collapse: shares and builds on a Woodbrooke course led by Jackie Carpenter including review of the latest science, grief, worship sharing, and discernment;
- Quakers and the United Nations: explores Friends’ history with the UN and ways to be engaged. **NEW OFFERING;**
- Racial Wealth Gap Simulation: an exercise that helps “...people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth”;
- Transportation, migration, and climate: explores access and mobility issues from the local to global perspective and the impacts of climate change;
- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care drills down to the county or community level on the impacts of displacement; and

Please let me know of any topic or suggestion you would like that is not listed here.



Winter Interim Business Meeting, Orlando, 2026

## Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

*The interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.*

- Archives Committee: As mentioned above, I am rescheduling the planned meeting with members of the committee. The purpose of this meeting is to visit the University of Florida SEYM collection. In addition to doing archival searches, I have materials to deposit.
- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): In addition to meeting with CMOR, I will assist the committee with its plenary session for the 2026 SEYM Gathering. In

addition to that session, I'll also be co-facilitating a session with Paula Palmer, co-director of Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR) program, <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>;

- Earthcare Committee: In addition to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee inviting Earthcare Committee members to join their meetings, the Earthcare Committee met on 13 Third Month 2026. We reviewed past concerns, including Scott Virgin's concern for the Everglades and Big Sugar. To read Scott's article, "A Fight for the Heart of the Everglades: The EAA Reservoir and Big Sugar", [click here](#);
- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: SEYM has been approved to return to Wekiwa Springs State Park for Eleventh Month 2026. We have lots of environmental events planned for the weekend that will begin the Fifthday (Thursday), 26 through Firstday (Sunday), 29. Watch this space and SEYM eNews for updates!
- Nominating Committee: I join other members of the Nominating Committee in sending condolences to the family and friends of Ed Lesnick. Ed served the committee and the Yearly Meeting in many roles.
- Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee: I continue to meet with the P&SC Committee. The committee continues to ask Monthly Meetings and Working Groups to consider of the AFSC statement, "A different future is possible: Quaker organizations share a vision for peace in Palestine and Israel."
- The appeal has been repeated for Friends to help purchase bike light kits in support of farmer workers. Fort Myers Monthly Meeting (MM) and others have been working with Mission Peniel who installs the kits.

Donations can be sent to:

Mission Peniel  
P.O. Box 1204  
Immokalee, FL 34143

You can also order directly from the Amazon Gift Registry: [https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2LEN1QXFAM1EF?ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ud\\_ggr-subnav-share\\_VDTTWZ9ATMQQYBW7WP46\\_6](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2LEN1QXFAM1EF?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_VDTTWZ9ATMQQYBW7WP46_6).

# The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

*To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.*

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): planning continues for additional workshops in St. Petersburg and other areas;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Here are several news items from the most recent newsletter.
  - This year, AFSC launched the Hummingbird Plan, which includes 12 partner organizations across Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. The plan works to support immigrants by providing immediate humanitarian aid as well as building capacity for systemic change. More information can be found here, <https://afsc.org/news/providing-aid-protecting-rights-migrants-latin-america>.



Participants in the Florida Council of Churches Advocacy Days Worship

- Action Hour for Palestine: Join others each Friday at noon ET/ 9am PT for a jam-packed hour of news, action, inspiration, and community. At a time when so many are feeling alone, overwhelmed, scared, and defeated, join AFSC's Action Hour community to take action for justice together. [Find more information and register here.](#)
- Decolonizing Quakers Working Group, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: I continue to meet monthly with the working group as schedule permits. While our meetings have been somewhat focused on outside events, e.g., concerns regarding Monthly and Yearly Meetings on the Turtle Island (the North American continent), we intend to return to discerning our working group's intentions.
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): The Fellowship is currently on hiatus. However, I do keep in contact with the convenor, Rashid Darden, as discussed below.
- If you are interested in receiving the Racial Justice Quarterly Newsletter, please visit <https://groups.google.com/g/qcur-newsletter> and click "Ask to join the group."



Rosewood Park Launch & Dedication, 2026.01.11

- The Transatlantic Friends Worship group has resumed meeting on the fourth Thirdday. “Transatlantic Friends is a worshipping community of Quakers and seekers dedicated to justice and the spirit-led leadership of people of color.” Transatlantic Friends is under the care of Friends Meeting of Washington, in the District of Columbia.
- Florida Network/Florida Connections Partners: I facilitated a Bystander/Upstander Training for Network on 2026.02.23. I will share the video recording when it is made available.
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): The Sowing the Harvest Advocacy Days took place 2026.01.14-15. I participated in the training, worship, and visits to legislators. A key consideration is that the Florida legislature is likely to convene a special session during Fourth Month (April) to take up redrawing legislative districts. [Click here](#) to read the proclamation regarding the special session.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): We are asked to continue to try to save key environmental pieces of the Inflation Reduction Act. Keep up the calls, letters, and other contact with federal legislators. FCNL has created a Legislative Ask One-Pager to help when talking to elected officials and others. To access the one-pager, [click here](#).
- One takeaway from the annual meeting that may be of interest to Friends was FCNL’s [“Policy Statement Language on Artificial Intelligence”](#) and the background [“Resource Paper on Artificial Intelligence”](#) from the policy committee.
- FCNL is also setting its 2026 legislative priorities agenda. To participate, follow this link, <https://www.fcnl.org/about/world-we-seek/legislative-priorities>.
- Friends General Conference (FGC): I am being considered to join the clerking team for the 2027 FGC Gathering. Please hold me and the rest of the team and the committee in your hearts;
- Friends Peace Teams: As mentioned above, Paula Palmer and I will be co-facilitating a workshop, “Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples and SEYM” during the 2026 SEYM Gathering. This will be a hybrid workshop and we look forward to seeing you! There will be opportunities to learn more about not only the Toward Right Relationship program, but also more about Friends Peace Teams overall.
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through affiliations with other Quaker organizations. This includes sharing resources with the Global Quaker Sustainability Network, <https://fwcc.world/areas-of-work/sustainability/>.
- Interfaith Vigil, Dade-Collier Training and Transition Center Detention Facility, Big Cypress National Preserve: The vigils continue every Firstday (Sunday) from 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET. People gather across from the camp’s entrance on Route 41. In addition to the Miccosukee, The Workers Circle has been organizing people of faith and conscience to hold the vigils. To sign up and learn more, including buses from Miami and Fort Myers, [click here](#).
- Lake County Conservation Council (LCCC): I helped with marketing the 2026 EcoExpo held 21 Second Month.
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW):
- QuakerEarth Action Map! Please share your Meeting’s or Worship Group’s information. This dynamic tool showcases initiatives addressing climate justice, ecological sustainability, and community

resilience. Share your story and inspire others! Be inspired by others. Follow this link, <https://quakerearthcare.org/map/>, then click on the "Input Form" link;

- I have participated in The EMERGE Framework, a series that explores the Quaker-rooted values facilitated by Lee Hall.
- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.
- Woodbrooke (<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>) "...is an international Quaker learning and research organisation based in Britain. [They] provide opportunities for learning, connection and worship which are rooted in the Quaker tradition and open to all. [The] mission is to foster the 'vital ministry' of Quakers today and [the] learning programme allows participants to: deepen their understanding of the Quaker way, explore spirituality, support their communities and be inspired to bring about wider change the in world."

Climate Crisis: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/climate-crisis/>;

Climate Crisis Eco Church Network: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/climate-crisis/#ecochurch>;

Courses: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/>;

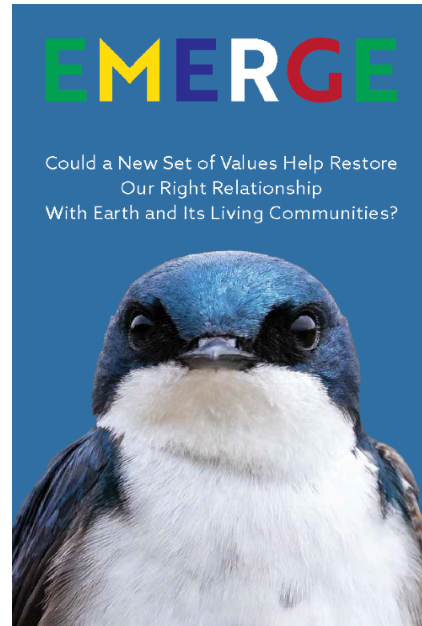
Financial Support: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/financial-support/>;

Learning for Communities: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/learning-for-communities/>;

Research: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/>.

There is also a regular newsletter available with free subscription log-in, [click here](#).

**Thank you, Friends, for your support this past year!**



Click on the image to see the EMERGE Website

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## Communication

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### Contact Information

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## Representative to FLGBTQC Report

SEYM Annual Meeting for Business

1 – 5 Fourth Month 2026

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns have gathered for two Meetings for Worship with Concern for Business, approving a budget until the FGC Gathering in July, and lifting up a name in a first reading from Nominating Committee for a prospective Co-Clerk for the organization. The budget was modified to increase funds for travel so more Friends would be able to attend the FGC Gathering in July. At these two meetings Friends also participated in threshing sessions to review and discuss the progress of two subcommittees of the FLGBTQC Steering Committee. The first concerned a proposal regarding reconnecting, (including creating better connection with Yearly Meetings and Associations), organization, and structure going forward. The second involved a vision statement of our purpose, existence as a faith community, and hopes in facing a future in love. Each session was a gathering sunk deeply in Spirit, with Friends sharing experiences and memories and desires for our organization to continue rather than be laid down.

I would like to thank SEYM Friends again for the opportunity to serve as your representative to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. Most Friends cannot help but notice how perilous a time it is for those in the margins, whether by virtue of race, immigration status, gender, age, religion, and whom you love. A community that knows how to witness, speak Truth to power, and be able to listen and support, is standing in faithfulness. Leaning into Spirit is how we all get through this; knowing we are grounded in God is how we stay on the path; finding a way to Love will guide everything we do. I pray that the Peace that passes all understanding graces our hearts as we journey together.

Jan Dahm

SEYM Representative to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

14 Third Month 2026